

Coughlinites Honor PM And Winchell in Boston

What Christian Fronters Do and Say at Secret Meeting

By M. M. MARBERRY

PM Boston Christian Fronters who attended the hush-hush birthday testimonial dinner for Charles E. Coughlin Tuesday night from which the public and the press were barred—leaped to their feet when the name of Walter Winchell was mentioned, loosed a volley of hisses and boos, and shouted:

"Jew! Jew! Jew!"

Besides Winchell, PM came in for its share of disapproval by the audience. Time and again William B. Gallagher, active in old Christian Front rallies in Boston, was cheered as he cried:

"If an American stands up and fights communism he is smeared and vilified by newspapers and the radio. One example is PM. PM stands for Putrid Minds. Why is it that people with money buy such a paper, and why is it people with money support such a thing?"

Who Is Winchell?

After accusing PM of "exploiting" Boston (and by this he meant this newspaper was first to expose the steadily growing waves of anti-Semitism in the city), Gallagher turned to Winchell. Who, he asked, is Winchell?

It was here the rhetorical question was given the "Jew! Jew! Jew!" chanting reply. That outburst out of the way, those who had jumped enthusiastically to their feet, slumped back into their chairs and a rollicking wave of laughs swept the banquet room.

Gallagher, a former commander of the Michael Perkins American Legion post, then warned the audience:

"We must stick together. We must keep our organization going. The time is coming when Father Coughlin will be back on the air, when he will be vindicated. We await the day."

Unknown Guest

This display of manners—coming just as the beating of another Jewish youth by Boston racist-hoodlums was reported to authorities—was witnessed by an unwanted, unknown guest, Dr. L. M. Birkhead.

Birkhead is the national director of the Friends of Democracy, an



Dr. L. M. Birkhead

organization formed to fight subversive groups. He was the only one of 375 individuals gathered in the Charter Room of Boston's New England Mutual Bldg. who was not there to celebrate Coughlin's birthday. He was there to investigate.

Birkhead paid \$2.25 to admit him to the dinner honoring Coughlin's 52d birthday. How he edged his way into a gathering from which outsiders were strictly barred is his secret.

Moran Speaks

The unwanted guest heard speeches by Frances P. Moran, Coughlin's lay lieutenant in New England and a man who exhibited Nazi victory films to come-whomay, and Gallagher, a City employe, connected with the Boston Public Library.

Coughlin did not attend the celebration. As an intimate of his phrases it, he likes to have birthday parties in his honor, but does not like to attend them.

Those gathered at the rally were the remnants of the recently demobilized Christian Front who are carrying on their work under the cover of newly formed groups. This particular outfit was named the Friends of Father Coughlin. Members, for the most part, are distributors of *Social Justice*, the organ suspended by Coughlin after a Federal Grand Jury investigation was started to determine if it was seditious.

'Greatest Prophet'

Another speaker, the Rev. Fred-

erick M. Palladino, retired Methodist minister of Dorchester, Mass., said:

"A new day is coming. Its great prophet will be Father Coughlin. Of all the great prophets in history, he is the greatest."

Many of the speakers stressed that Russia was the real enemy in the war. There was no mention whatsoever of the ism called fascism.

Among the other speakers were Mrs. Leo J. McNally, of Milton, Mass.; a Father Murphy, said to be in the history department of Boston College, and a Father Bouchett of Fall River, whose claim to fame is

that he was a classmate of Coughlin.

Admittance credentials were examined so stringently that Edwin Banta, the former Communist who turned around and formed the American Women Against Communism, the man who parroted the official Nazi line by writing articles in Bund papers such as the *Deutscher Beobachter*, had to cool his heels in the hall outside the banquet room. He had no admittance card, and, despite his protests, he could not get in.

There were more speakers, but Birkhead had to leave to address the weekly forum of the Community Church of Boston. Anyway, as he says, he had had enough.